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ABSTRACT

Each year, many of the children in family foster care, group homes, or residential treatment centers are reunited with their families. This sourcebook is intended to aid the development of well-trained service providers who work with family reunification. The information here, presented in four parts, can be used for agency staff development programs, in continuing education programs, in schools of social work, in schools of law, or in university social work programs. Part one provides an expanded definition of family reunification as well as a set of underlying principles and guidelines for practice. The section also examines various child welfare issues. Part two delineates the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for successfully reunifying families, while part three presents five curriculum modules on how to increase competence in family reunification. The modules consist of carefully designed sessions which focus on the interrelated concepts involved in family reunification. Handouts are included at the end of each module so as to reinforce teaching opportunities and to provide directions for practice exercises. The last section of the sourcebook includes bibliographies on child welfare, family preservation, permanency planning, race and ethnicity, child maltreatment, adoption, and numerous other issues. (RJM)

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